



VOL 4, ISSUE 2

CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY RESERVE

JANUARY, 2004

## CASMR 100TC SPT BDE OPFOR FOR THE 250TH MI AT FORT HUNTER LIGGETT

by MAJ Charles A. Numark

The 100TC SPT BDE received a late request to support for the 250th MI at AT from 5 -20 December 2003. The unit had 25 out of 34 of our eligible soldiers, volunteering to go to this AT, many for the entire two weeks. Roughly, that's about 222 soldier days, about 5,328 hours for a saving to the State of about \$85,000 not including the hundreds of hours in preparation

In a conflict without a front line, all troops need to be prepared to react. The 100th Troop Command Support Brigade provided a powerful, realistic exercise experience for members of the 250th Military Intelligence Battalion (TE) when they executed a mock ambush during a convoy training exercise.

The mock battle took place at Fort Hunter Liggett, during the 250th's Annual Training (AT). While the 100th

MAJ Charles A. Numark wanted to make the Guard soldiers even more aware of their surroundings — for their own safety. "We thought it was important to help these troops realize that an attack can come anywhere, any time."

Numark, and his staff, began by working to plan an effective, safe exercise. "Safety was our first concern," he said. "Even blank ammunition and smoke grenades present some risk and we wanted to mitigate that as much as possible." The S-3 Staff set about creating an effective training exercise. SGT Larry Nevis was tasked to give a short briefing on ambush. "We wanted the soldiers who may not have had previous combat training to understand the basics," SGT Nevis said. SGT Nevis gave the briefing at the Brigade's home station. It included nomenclature, types of ambush, and effective strategies.

*We thought it was important to help these troops realize that an attack can come anywhere, any time.*



M-16A2s equipped with blanks and blank firing adapters. Photograph: WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa

TCSPTBDE regularly supports the 250th with training, this was the first time they acted as an armed Opposition Force.

As in any ambush, surprise was a key element. Brigade Commander,

Like all attacks, the tactics were greatly influenced by the terrain. After reconnoitering the training ranges at Fort Hunter Liggett, the planners were rewarded with an excellent venue. "We found a perfect spot" said WO1 Jon Wells, the OIC of this event. "We set up in a valley with strong vertical rises on both sides. Because of this we were able to allow the whole convoy to enter the kill zone before we disabled the first vehicle. The high ground on two sides allowed us to open fire from multiple directions and still avoid fratricide."

The SMR troops, armed with M-16A2s equipped with blanks and blank firing adapters, lay hidden,

waiting for the convoy to enter the ravine. As the first Humvee moved through and crested the high ground, an Observer/Controller (OC) released a smoke grenade under the vehicle and declared it disabled. The smoke also signaled the beginning of the attack and soldiers of the 100th opened fire. Additional smoke grenades and water balloons, simulating grenades, added to the effect, helping to create the chaos of battle.



*Soldiers attend late afternoon briefing.*

*Photograph: W01 Jon-Nolan Paresa*

During the exercise, the 100TC SPT BDE received valuable guidance and support from the Small Arms Training Team (SATTs). The SATTs Commander, SMR MAJ Steve Wiley and his ARNG and SMR NCOs, briefed and participated in the Opposition Force (OPFOR) to insure safety throughout the event.



*SMR soldiers from the 100TC Spt Bde move into position just prior to the ambush*

Brigade First Sergeant (acting) SSG William Simmons thought it was an effective exercise. “What helped these soldiers most was the little taste of reality this exercise gave them, I think we did our job well.”

The attack was over in less than four minutes, but in that time the Guard troops learned a valuable lesson — constant vigilance and the correct reaction to fire saves lives.

*“What helped these soldiers most was the little taste of reality this exercise gave them, I think we did our job well.”*



# SMR CTT TESTING IMPACTS IRAQ-BOUND ARMY GUARD UNIT

by Staff Sgt. Marc Yablonka

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA** – When the newest provisional unit of the California State Military Reserve saddled up in October to assist the 1st Battalion of the 185th Armor, little did those SMR soldiers realize they were lending a hand to the first California Army National Guard armored battalion called to overseas active duty service since the Korean War. Destination: Iraq, sometime between Thanksgiving and early December. Under the leadership of Detachment Commander, Capt. Russell Nakaishi,

unit personnel include Maj. Charles Lee (Medical Officer), Capt. William Rittenburg (JAG), Warrant Officer Valentin Uslie (Detachment Executive Officer), Sgts. 1st Class Randall Long (Acting First Sgt.) and Louis Koncz, Staff Sgts. Don Urie, Don Polny, Ray Rincon, Jeff Davis, Sgts. Daniel Bernal, Jesse Ariola and Octavio Cazares. The new unit's main mission has been to instruct and conduct Common Task Testing (CTT) for the deploying Guard soldiers.

## PASS IN REVIEW

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Soldiers wishing to contribute an article to the Pass In Review must be submitted to COL Ledwitz via E-mail: [martin.ledwitz@sce.com](mailto:martin.ledwitz@sce.com)

"The State Military Reserve soldiers have become an integral part of detachment training for our battalion," said Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Hines of the 1/185. "They've been invaluable because they have freed up our other NCOs for training and they also serve as our Combat Service Support Team, assist us with inspections, administrative work and in training our NCOs."

"Our objective is to provide CTT in all twelve Level 1 tasks," explained Nakaishi. "At this point we are able to provide eleven of the twelve tasks including five tasks involving NBC, maintaining the M-16 rifle, employing the Claymore Mine, evaluating casualties, performing CPR, first aid and land navigation."

"Many of those soldiers had not used their weapons in a while," added SSgt. Urie, "but all of them were motivated and eager to learn. Their goal was to be the best that they can be and they appreciated SMR assistance in helping them reach their objective."

Master Sgt. Chester Tyler, whose service dates back to the Vietnam War, exemplifies the trust and gratitude shown toward the new unit. "It comes with experience," he said. "Many State Military Reserve soldiers have prior service and have experienced in the past what our soldiers are experiencing now. They enjoy being here and that's really good. I can't say enough about how they spend their valuable time without pay."



*"I can't say enough about the essentialness of the SMR in contributing to our success"*

"This is more than what I expected," he commented. "It's why I joined up. To see the expressions on the soldiers' faces when we teach them something they didn't know. We're just trying to keep them alive."

According to Capt. Nakaishi, things began to fall into place during advanced training for the Army National Guard at Camp Roberts last June. The preparation time was extensive, with SMR personnel spending about 40 hours establishing CTT standards and attending weekly meetings with participating units to arrange for supplies and equipment.



*Sgt. Bertomen - SMR, demonstrating to National Guard Soldier laser targeting technique. Photograph: WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa*

"We had originally planned to conduct common task testing at JFTB Los Alamitos in July, but the 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation decided to include Common Task Training as part of its AT," recalled Nakaishi. "As our planning took shape, Headquarters

Company, 40th Infantry Division requested to participate so we jointly planned the operation to accommodate both units. Additional, 40th Infantry Division units represented by smaller detachments also participated."

The June mission set the standard for present and future operations. At Camp Roberts, SMR soldiers staffed a total of six stations and conducted testing for eleven tasks. Each station included a team leader and evaluators.

Soldiers reporting to the stations were required to bring their Mission Oriented Protective Pos-

ture (MOPP) suits and gas masks. Weapons, land navigation and first aid equipment was available on station. In addition, there was a reception table

where each soldier's files were issued containing SL 1 evaluation forms and a consolidated record form.

Every soldier's performance was noted on an evaluation form as a "GO" or "NO GO", and when rolled up, the CTT scores provided each commander an assessment of his unit's proficiency in basic soldier skills and an indicator as to where additional training needed to be focussed.

"As with any large scale operation, there were things that did not go according to plan," said Nakaishi, "but we were flexible and worked around any problem. As a result, we accomplished our goal of testing 140 personnel over four days."

One of the units that participated at Camp Roberts was the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, whose appreciation for the State Military Reserve's professionalism, flexibility and devotion to duty led to the formation of the new unit.

"We're really grateful to have the State Military Reserve soldiers, "I can't express enough gratitude," stated Maj. John McBrearty, battalion executive officer. Those sentiments were echoed by Brig. Gen. John Gong, Deputy Commander-Support of the 40th Infantry Division.

"I can't say enough about the essentialness of the SMR in contributing to our success," added Gen. Gong. On a Saturday in mid November, as Capt. Paul Stryker prepared his troops for the upcoming "Battle Rattle" of their impending deployment to Iraq, he told them, "If you take care of the leadership, it takes care of you. We take care of each other." Words like those are keenly heeded by the soldiers of the California State Military Reserve.



*National Guard Soldiers zero-in on laser target. Photograph: WO1 Jon-Nolan Paresa*

# SUPPORTING THE GUARD

## SMR OFFICERS AND A FAMILY MEMBER RECOGNIZED

by COL Martin Ledwitz

**L**os Alamitos, CA – On Saturday, December 6, 2003 a joint formation of the Installation Support Group and the 40ID(M) Support Brigade honored the efforts of 1st LT William Mendelsohn of the ISG, his wife Debra, and MAJ Ines Maria Shipe of the 40ID(M) SPT BDE. The event was also attended by BG Pierce, COL Swidler, COL Ledwitz, COL Gage, and WOC Williams of the SMR HQ staff.

to permit your husband to continue his work in support of our mobilizing soldiers, while you and your family were evacuated during the recent Southern California fires is absolutely amazing. Your selflessness is a tribute to your commitment to the Guard. I applaud your unwavering support of our soldiers. Please accept my coin as a token of my appreciation and debt of gratitude.” The presentation was proudly watched by the Mendelsohn’s children, daughter Emelie and son Douglas.



LT. Medelsohn's daughter examines the Medal of Merit award.

Lieutenant Mendelsohn was awarded the Medal of Merit for his outstanding support of the Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) programs of the California Army National Guard for the period 1 April to 1 November 2003. He coordinated over 1000 man-days of State Active Duty service by SMR soldiers, the most in the modern history of the SMR.

Debra Mendelsohn was presented a letter and personal coin from Laura Monroe, the wife of the California Adjutant General. Mrs. Mendelsohn was at

MAJ Ines Maria Shipe was awarded a service medal for her twenty years in the SMR. MAJ Shipe is the S-5 (Civil Affairs) for the 40 ID(M) Support BDE and is in charge of the SMR efforts to support the families of the Army Guard soldiers in Southern California.

She works with individual family members and soldiers, Family Support volunteer groups, Guard Family Support officers/NCOs, professional Family Support Managers, and coordinates with the Operational Ready Families Program. MAJ Shipe



BG Richard Pierce thanks Debra Mendelsohn

*“It is my pleasure to recognize you for your dedication and commitment to the California National Guard”...*

home during the fire events in Southern California while her husband was coordinating SRP activities to the north for the Guard. Although their home was threatened, and the family was evacuated, Debra told her husband and the Guard that he should stay on duty and that she had things under control. LT Mendelsohn told her to be sure to save his SMR materials when she evacuated. In her letter, Mrs. Monroe said, “It is my pleasure to recognize you for your dedication and commitment to the California National Guard. Specifically, opting

was also awarded a letter of commendation and a personal coin from Laura Monroe in recognition of her long term and continuous achievements in helping the Guard troops and their families.



# **MG BIANCHI'S 2003 STATEMENT TO THE TROOPS ON CASMR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

December 2003

My Fellow Soldiers:

The year is coming to an end and what a year it has been!

As we approach the holidays I want to send you and your families my greetings, and to remind you of, and thank you for your accomplishments.

I am especially proud to be the leader of the California State Military Reserve ("SMR") this year. It is a privilege to be able to rely on the strength and support of our outstanding cadre of dedicated and talented men and women. You have enabled us to achieve a unique record of accomplishments and performance in 2003.

This could not have been done without the great leadership provided by the senior commanders and the staff of all the subordinate SMR Commands throughout the State, by my Headquarters Staff, and by each of you. Nor could it have been possible without the support of your spouses, employers and business partners to whom I send special thanks.

Not since World War II, has the SMR been called upon to provide and sustain the level of professional military services that we have been this year. We met or exceeded expectations each and every time. And concomitantly we achieved other significant goals that will result in an unprecedented and far-reaching expansion of the SMR.

Just a quick reminder of examples of the major achievements we, as a team, have achieved this year:

1. From the start of our Soldier Readiness Processing ("SRP") support to the California National Guard ("CNG") in December 2001 to the end of this month we will have performed almost 1300 person days --- over 250 in the past few months alone --- in this critical mission. This has involved assistance in small arms training, personnel processing, medical, dental, JAG and Family Support. MG Kenneally has stated that the SRPs could not have been completed without us.
2. We supported the CNG Joint Operations Center ("JOC") in the Fire and Flood seasons as well as at other times.
3. We provided security support to the 129th ARW at Moffett when it was at Threatcon Charlie.
4. We continue to support the major CNG Commands with our Field Forces during ATs and throughout the year, with our Center for Military History, and through our specialized Staff teams such as Signal, JAGS, Family Support, Chaplains and Drug Demand Reduction and Casualty Notification.
5. We have developed the most professional General Staff in my memory and have made real progress in its communication with and support of the Field.

6. We progressed even further our integration with the CNG. For example, we participated in and contributed to the Adjutant General's quarterly Executive Counsel meetings and had leadership roles in the Strategic Planning Council.

7. We are expanding the Service Arms that we support. We now support the California Air National Guard and have established the first SMR Air Guard Support Unit at Moffett Field. We will shortly be adding an additional unit for the Channel Islands.

8. We have finalized the Staff Study and achieved the first needed approval (DAG Army) for the reactivation of the California Naval Militia. We recruited a key member of its leadership team and fully expect this organization to have thousands of members within two years of its reactivation.

9. We established a new SMR Medical Detachment.

10. We have completed the Staff Study and are in the process of obtaining final approvals for a SMR Military Police Unit.

11. We have established a new Battalion of the 40th in San Bernardino.

12. We have made the greatest advances in training in my memory --- with schoolhouses of outstanding quality providing training at San Luis Obispo to one out of every four members of the SMR, as well as with specialized training programs leading to certification in everything from Family Support to JOC support to Physical Security. And we finalized a weapons qualification program for certain SMR soldiers that will be implemented in 2004.

2003 has truly been a banner year for the SMR. Each of you, almost without exception, has risen to meet the challenges given us by our CNG "client". We have not failed them. We have succeeded in being an effective, professional and reliable "force multiplier" for the CNG in this time of national crisis.

I send my personal best wishes to each and every soldier of the SMR, and to your families, along with my sincere thanks for a difficult job well done.

May the blessings of this holiday season flow freely to each and every one and may Peace and Goodwill prevail.

God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

John E. Bianchi  
Major General (CA)  
Commanding

# CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY HOLDS ANNUAL MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE

by CW4 David Crippen

**CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA** – More than 50 California State Military Reserve soldiers and their guests attended the fourth annual Military History Conference, held at Camp San Luis Obispo in late October.

Highlights of the gathering included professional development training, presentations of projects and formal papers regarding military history and a briefing regarding current activities of the California National Guard. In addition, attendees received updates on various projects undertaken by CCMH subordinate units

CCMH members and their guests also traveled to Camp Roberts and received briefings on the M1A1

to be used for the base historical Fund.

Col. William Huss, Commander of the Naval History Research Element, was awarded the Order of California in recognition of his contribution to the discovery and retention of California's military history.

Warrant Officer Mark Denger received the California Commendation Medal for his service to the Soldier Readiness Program, while Chief Warrant Officer Henry Leon and Denger were awarded the California State Service Ribbon for state active duty supporting the Army National Guard.

Sgt. 1st Class Sandy Peralta was recognized by Gen. Hamilton for her leadership in establishing a

*Brig. Gen. William Hamilton, Commander of the California Center for Military History, opened the conference...*

Abrams Tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle. While on post they visited the Camp Roberts Museum and historical vehicles displayed and stored at the museum's restoration facility.

Brig. Gen. William Hamilton, Commander of the California Center for Military History, opened the conference with the announcement that the California National Guard has been asked to host the 2004 National Guard Museum Conference.

Brig. Gen. John Alexander, Assistant Adjutant General of the California National Guard, briefed the gathering on the progress of establishing a Joint Headquarters at the Office of the Adjutant General and Lt. Col. John Buethe provided an update on homeland security operations.

Mr. Jerry Dietz, treasurer of the 84th Division Association presented a \$1,000 donation to Camp San Luis Obispo Commander Lt. Col. Kelly Fisher

historical program at Camp San Luis Obispo.

Historical presentations included a video by Maj. Roger McGrath and Warrant Officer Marker Denger of the CCMH Naval History Research Element entitled From Cruisers to Carriers. The production showcased the accomplishments of 1st Lt. Eugene Ely, the first man to fly from the deck and land an aircraft on a U.S. Navy vessel.



McGrath and Denger also presented a video on the Great White Fleet based on a photo album of Emerson Manley who sailed with the fleet. Guy Orr, Mr. Manley's grandson, supplemented the video with a biography of his grandfather. Professor Dan Krieger of California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo discussed the activities of Lt. Col. John Fremont and the California Battalion in San Luis Obispo and Lt. Col. John Justice spoke on



Fremont and the Capitulation at Cahuenga. Col. Ken Neilson spoke on World War II war dogs and Col. Eric Martens and Maj. Thomas Nott discussed the history of the Thompson sub-machine gun.

LTC Norman Marshall offered vignettes from recently completed volumes on California Naval History and 1st. Lt. Mark Susuki made a presentation

Chief Warrant Officer David Crippen introduced his CD on the military service of the Presidents of the United States. Sgt. 1st Class William Dean demonstrated the use of civil war equipment and uniforms and Staff Sgt. Dan Whitney spoke on early 20th century naval uniforms and the functioning of the 16-inch naval gun turret.

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## DENTAL SUPPORT AT CAMP ROBERTS

*by W01 Jon-Nolan Paresa  
photography: W01 Jon-Nolan Paresa*

**Camp Roberts, CA:** National Guard soldiers from the 756th Transportation Company, 1072nd Transportation Company, 250th MI FT, 133 MCT, 233 FID, and 233 END were examined and treated by two SMR dentists Maj. Samuel Oglesby and Maj. Charles Lee, and Karen Cun, DDS and Olga Sh-trom, DDS from ON-SITE Dental Care, Inc. in San Miguel California.

to provide quality dental care services to soldiers during the December 2003 SRP (Soldier Readiness Program) at Camp Roberts. Soldiers requiring immediate dental work were sent to the Onsite Dental van located 3 miles south of Camp Roberts in the town of San Miguel. The San Miguel Fire Department provided a secure location for the Onsite Dental van to park and treat the soldiers.



*MAJ Samuel Oglesby examining  
National Guard soldier.*

Majors' Samuel Oglesby, DDS and Charles Lee, DDS, of the SMR (California State Military Reserve) did the initial front-line dental examinations during the December 2003 SRP. It was their job to

determine if the soldiers' dental concerns would prevent them from being deployed overseas. If it was determined immediate dental care was needed the soldiers were sent to the Onsite Dental mobile van for the further examination and if needed immediate dental intervention. Assisting the dentists were Sgt. Mary Ichelson and Sgt. Suzanne Oughton of the SMR.

To help with soldier readiness the California National Guard contracted with ON-SITE Dental Care, Inc. hereafter referred to as Onsite Dental,

According to Laurie Mann - Director of Practice Management, Onsite Dental was the idea of Dr. Arnold Kiles a Silicon Valley dentist. In 1996, Dr. Kiles discovered that many of his patients had difficulty keeping their scheduled dental appointments. It was his vision to create a mobile dental van wherein services could be brought to the patient and be delivered virtually "at their doorstep".

Ms. Mann explained Onsite Dental has four mobile dental offices that provide complete dental services to more than 60 corporate and university clients. She went on to say that the dentists are California Dental Board certified and must have a minimum of 3 years experience in order to work at Onsite Dental.



*Sgt. Mary Ichelson & Sgt  
Suzanne Oughton-SMR, as-  
sisting MAJ Samuel Oglesby,  
DDS with during December,  
2003 SRP.*

**M**s. Mann affirmed the mobile dental office are equipped with state-of-the-art dental equipment including digital x-ray systems, intra-oral cameras, ultrasonic cleaning scalers, and the Dentrix Software Suite that provides a "paperless dental office" of images and x-rays. The Onsite Dental vans and their affiliated dentists provide complete dental exams, x-rays, cleaning, fillings, bonding, porcelain veneers, crowns and bridges.



BG Richard K. Pierce offers a word of encouragement to a soldier while Olga Shtrom, DDS begins the procedure.

With the assistance of Nooshin Noush-irvani, RDA (Registered Dental Assistant) soldiers SGT Linda Keitt and SGT Beatriz Caballero

During the December 2003 SRP at Camp Roberts Ms. Mann indicated that Doctors Cun and Shtrom were providing on the average 110 procedures a day on the soldiers from Camp Roberts.

With the assistance of Nooshin Noush-

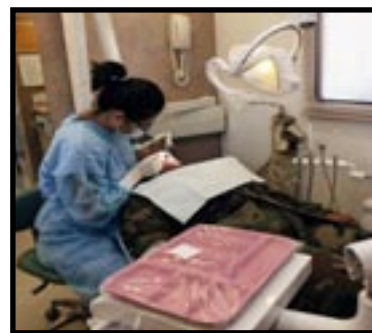


BG Richard K. Pierce and Laurie Mann pose next to the Onsite Dental Care mobile van.

were the first to receive dental services from the Onsite Dental van at the December 2003 SRP.

Laurie Mann gave BG Richard Pierce from the California State Military Reserve (CA-SMR) a tour of the two-dental suite mobile van. BG Pierce provided moral support to the soldiers during their dental procedure and was impressed with the technology, professionalism, and cleanliness of the mobile dental van. When asked if the General would like to have one of the dentist take look inside his mouth he smiled and said, "I'll call for an appointment...soon".

Karen Cun, DDS preparing to examine Sgt. Linda Keitt



## ARMY HISTORY CHIEF COMMENDS CCMH SOLDIERS

by CW4 David Crippen

**CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA** - Brig. Gen. John S. Brown, Chief of Military History, recently commended the California Center for Military History as an outstanding organization. General Brown's letter of congratulations was read to CCMH soldiers attending the Annual Military History Conference held at Camp San Luis Obispo on October 24-26. The text of his letter follows:

*It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the fine soldiers of the California Center for Military History on the occasion of this annual event. You all know how hard you have worked to make your center the outstanding organization that it is, and to sustain that superb reputation over time. Even here in Washington D.C. you will find that your reputation shines, especially with the Director of the Army National Guard, who has shared of your impressive performance with me personally.*

*Given my technical responsibilities towards the Army Historical Program and the Army Museum System, I frequently choose outstanding organizations as a benchmark for others to emulate. You are truly such an organization. Please keep up the great work - - and please have a wonderful time at your annual get together!*

John Sloan Brown, BG USA  
Chief of Military History

# 100 TC SPT BDE

by COL Martin Ledwitz

In October MAJ Numark the Brigade Commander attended a Staff meeting at the 250th MI (TE). MG Keneally wanted to talk to the 250th about mobilization, and asked about the SMR support for the 100TC. The General wanted to see the SMR BDE dedicated space. After the tour, MG Keneally presented MAJ Numark with a "Commanding Generals Coin of Excellence" which was accepted with great pride in the name of the unit.

Based on the support provided to the 250th dur-

supporting the 143rd Field Artillery Bn providing Medical, Communications, Range, CTT Training, as Primary Instructors in numerous Medical topics, and APFT support. This was the first time the 100TC SPT BDE supported this unit. Some comments received from the Guard included, "Hooah, well I really admire your soldiers" "We were impressed with the knowledge, the military bearing, and overall look and demeanor of the SMR soldiers and Staff." "Impressed with your team" "Definitely professional" The 143rd Bn Commander, asked

*We were impressed with the knowledge, the military bearing, overall look and demeanor of the SMR soldiers and Staff.*

ing the August AT by the 100th TC SPT BDE sixteen members of the Brigade were awarded the Army Achievement Medal by LTC Timothy Keasling, Commander of the 250th MI Bn (TE), in November. The medals recognize the 100th valuable contributions to the 250th's Annual Training (AT)

About 20 of the 100 TC SPT BDE personnel spent three days at Camp Louis Obispo in November

why our soldiers weren't in the Guard or in the Active Army. They thought the SMR performed so well that they invited the unit to support them again at Camp Parks. Nineteen 100TC SPT BDE soldiers went to Camp Parks from 21 -23 November with more Medical CTT training, unarmed OPFOR, infantry tactics and lots of NBC.



## TOY DRIVE FOR CHILDREN OF DEPLOYED NG SOLDIERS

by COL Martin Ledwitz

The 100th TC SPT BDE conducted its Second Annual Holiday Toy Drive. Last year the 100th raised and distributed over \$1,000 in cash and about 800 toys for the families of National Guard soldiers who had been deployed, and/or who couldn't afford to buy toys for their children for the holidays.

The unit attempted to double that amount this year. They collected \$3,262 in cash and about 300 toys! WO1 Kretschmer is a middle school gym teacher. She got her school kids involved and they sent in over \$1800.



*National Guard family member receiving a Christmas gift.*

# SMR WARRANT OFFICER PLAYS KEY ROLE IN PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO LOS ALAMITOS

by 1LT Bill Mendelsohn

**JFTB LOS ALAMITOS** - As a member of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department's Dignitary Protection Unit, Officer Dean Bentsen wasn't surprised when he was contacted by the United States Secret Service regarding a pending visit by President George W. Bush to Southern California. However, what did surprise the chief warrant officer in the California State Military Reserve was that the reason he was be-

CW2 Bentsen utilized his many contacts in the anti-terrorism field to ensure that the most updated intelligence from local law enforcement was integrated into the security plan and the mission was completed without incident.

"This mission was a prime example of the level of professionalism in the SMR," said Col. Ross Moen, CW2 Bentsen's commanding officer of the Installation Support Group at JFTB Los Alamitos. "It also served as another example of the actual level of State Military Reserve support, cooperation and integration with the Joint Forces Training Base staff and the California National Guard."



CW2 Dean Bentsen, assisted in security coordination for a recent presidential visit to JFTB Los Alamitos.

*This mission was a prime example of the level of professionalism in the SMR.*

ing contacted was directly related to his SMR assignment as Assistant Physical Security Officer at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos. When the Secret Service became aware of CW2 Bentsen's SMR assignment, agents requested his assistance in coordinating security for the arrival and departure of Air Force One at Los Alamitos Army Airfield.

CW2 Bentsen became involved in both advance party coordination and operational security during President Bush's visit. His primary responsibility was to ensure that JFTB Base Security, under the direction of MSG Roger Steele (Ret.), and the United States Secret Service were coordinated at all times.

